

Art Unit 2627
Serial No.: 10/816,158

Reply to Office Action of: 07/25/2006
Attorney Docket No.: R1875

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REMARKS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the information disclosure statement filed on 03/31/2004 and include a signed and initialed copy thereof in the next Office action.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT:

Applicants provisionally elects Species 1, Claims 1-11, 24-26, 28-32, 34-35, and 37, all of which read on Figs. 1-2. Applicants further note that at least Claim 24, as amended, is generic to all of the species cited by the Examiner as claimed, including Claim 1, as amended, and non-elected Claim 12. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the figures depict and all of the claims include:

a ferromagnetic layer (a free, pinned, or bias layer in various cases) that extends in a first direction a first distance;

a nonmagnetic spacer layer adjoining the ferromagnetic layer; and

a ferromagnetic structure that is separated from the ferromagnetic layer by the spacer layer, the ferromagnetic structure having a first section that extends in the first direction a second distance that is substantially equal to the first distance, the ferromagnetic structure having a second section that is disposed further than the first section from the spacer layer, the second section extending at least twice as far as the first section in the first direction (the track-width or stripe-height direction in various cases).

Accordingly, if Claim 24 is held to be allowable, all non-elected claims should be considered as well.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and/or remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a one-month extension of time be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1055.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 21, 2006

By: 
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